



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 175**

February Session, 2010

\* \_\_\_\_SB00175GAE\_\_032610\_\_ \*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) There shall be established  
2       a Connecticut Competitiveness Council which shall be within the  
3       Department of Economic and Community Development. The council  
4       shall consist of eighteen members appointed as follows: (1) Nine, each  
5       from different geographic areas of the state, at least one of whom shall  
6       be an economist and at least one of whom shall be a member of a  
7       chamber of commerce or a regional economic development  
8       organization, who shall be appointed by the Governor; (2) two  
9       members representing environmental, housing, the arts or any other  
10      aspect of quality of life, who shall be appointed by the president pro  
11      tempore of the Senate; (3) two members representing financial or  
12      venture capital, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the  
13      Senate; (4) one member representing financial regulation, taxation or  
14      other financial services, who shall be appointed by the minority leader  
15      of the Senate; (5) two members representing workforce training, job  
16      retention or human resources, who shall be appointed by the speaker  
17      of the House of Representatives; (6) one member representing  
18      telecommunications, energy, transportation or other physical  
19      infrastructure, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the  
20      House of Representatives; and (7) one member representing

21 technology research, discovery or deployment, who shall be appointed  
22 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

23 (b) The Commissioners of Developmental Services, Transportation  
24 and Higher Education, the Labor Commissioner and the director of the  
25 Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall be ex-officio members of the  
26 Connecticut Competitiveness Council without the right to vote. The  
27 commissioners and director, or their designees, shall attend its  
28 meetings.

29 (c) Appointed members of the council shall serve for four-year  
30 terms which shall commence October 1, 2010, except that members  
31 first appointed shall have the following terms: Five of the members  
32 initially appointed by the Governor and the members appointed by the  
33 majority leader of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the  
34 House of Representatives and the speaker of the House of  
35 Representatives shall serve a term of two years, and four of the  
36 members appointed by the Governor and the president pro tempore of  
37 the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of  
38 the Senate shall initially serve a term of four years. The appointing  
39 authority shall fill any vacancy by appointment for the unexpired  
40 portion of the term vacated. A majority of the council shall constitute a  
41 quorum for the transaction of any business. The members of the  
42 council shall serve without compensation, except for necessary  
43 expenses incurred in performing their duties.

44 (d) The Governor shall schedule and convene the first meeting of  
45 the board after the initial appointment of members under subsection  
46 (a) of this section. Such meeting shall be held not later than November  
47 1, 2010.

48 (e) The council shall appoint annually, from among its members, a  
49 chairman, vice chairman and secretary. The council may make rules  
50 for the conduct of its affairs. The council shall meet at least quarterly  
51 and at other times upon the call of the chair or the written request of  
52 any four members.

53 (f) The Department of Economic and Community Development  
54 shall provide staff support and other resources to the council.

55 (g) The council shall be responsible for assisting the Department of  
56 Economic and Community Development on the development of a  
57 strategic plan, as required under section 32-1o of the general statutes,  
58 to promote the competitiveness of the state's industry and economy.  
59 Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to, (1)  
60 recommendations for the development of public policy to promote  
61 competitiveness, (2) review of the state investment strategy and the  
62 effect of such strategy on competitiveness, (3) analysis of the economic  
63 industry cluster initiative, including recommendations to strengthen  
64 said initiative, (4) review of state agency and other public and private  
65 agencies' implementation of recommendations made by the economic  
66 clusters, and (5) recommendations for legislative or administrative  
67 action to promote the competitiveness of the state's industry and  
68 economy.

69 (h) Not later than January 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the  
70 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
71 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the  
72 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the  
73 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
74 of matters relating to commerce on the competitiveness of the state's  
75 industry and economy. Such report shall include, but not be limited to,  
76 (1) a list of recommendations made by the council to the Department  
77 of Economic and Community Development, pursuant to subsection (g)  
78 of this section, to promote the competitiveness of the state's industry  
79 and economy; (2) the status of state agency and partner agency  
80 implementation of the recommendations made by the economic  
81 clusters; and (3) recommendations for administrative and legislative  
82 action that would promote the state's competitiveness.

83 (i) Upon request of the chairpersons of the joint standing committee  
84 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
85 commerce, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations

86 Committee, Auditors of Public Accounts, legislative Office of Fiscal  
87 Analysis or Office of Legislative Research shall review such report.

88 Sec. 2. Section 32-717 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
89 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

90 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
91 the chairperson of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the  
92 president of The University of Connecticut and the chairperson of the  
93 Connecticut Development Authority, or their respective designees,  
94 shall prepare, within available appropriations, and in consultation  
95 with the [Governor's] Connecticut Competitiveness Council, the  
96 Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Higher Education,  
97 the chancellor of the community-technical college system, the director  
98 of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and any other agencies  
99 and leading technology-focused organizations deemed appropriate by  
100 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
101 recommendations for an implementation plan and budget to establish  
102 an Innovation Network that will include the following: (1) The creation  
103 of endowed chairs and the hiring of leading academic professionals in  
104 targeted fields based on core competencies to work at universities,  
105 state colleges and community colleges, in collaboration with other  
106 technology initiatives; (2) the focused and aggressive solicitation of  
107 and leveraged partnership with federal research funds; (3) increased  
108 corporate-sponsored research; (4) the establishment of at least one  
109 innovation accelerator, linked to universities and involving  
110 corporations and start-up enterprises focused on advanced technology  
111 and leveraging the efforts underway by the Connecticut Center for  
112 Advanced Technology in the Hartford area; (5) the strengthening of  
113 technology transfer and entrepreneurship activities at universities in  
114 the state; (6) incentives and financial support for collaborative research  
115 between universities and industry or federally sponsored technology  
116 centers; (7) the creation of linkages to angel networks; and (8) the  
117 creation of linkages to incubators in Connecticut. Said plan shall also  
118 include provisions for the utilization of existing resources, including,  
119 but not limited to, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the

120 Connecticut Development Authority, The University of Connecticut  
121 and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

122 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Economic  
123 and Community Development, in consultation with the chairperson of  
124 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of The University  
125 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development  
126 Authority, shall develop an implementation plan for the Innovation  
127 Network, within available resources, and submit said plan and budget  
128 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General  
129 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic  
130 development, education and labor, in accordance with the provisions  
131 of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	32-717

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In section 1, grammatical corrections were made.

***CE***            *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

GAE

***GAE***            *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*